

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

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## **SEN. CLARKE THANKS DEQ FOR QUICK RESPONSE ON NOXIOUS ODOR SCARE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FINDS THAT INCIDENT POSED NO PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT**

LANSING- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) today thanked the Department of Environmental Quality for their prompt investigation of a noxious odor that caused the evacuation of several east side Detroit businesses on September 26. In a formal investigation done at the request of Senator Clarke, the DEQ found that the odor was caused by the inadvertent shredding of a drum containing methyl mercaptan, a volatile carbon-sulfur compound used to odorize natural gas. The DEQ inquiry determined that the public was not at risk during the incident.

“I requested an inquiry because I felt we owed it to the people who lived and worked in that neighborhood to make sure this incident had no public health implications,” said Sen. Clarke. “I’m relieved that the odor was determined to be non-hazardous. I want to thank the Department of Environmental Quality for its prompt response to my request for an investigation.”

The DEQ determined that the odor originated from a local chemical plant during the shredding of a 55 gallon drum which contained about 30 gallons of methyl mercaptan. Plant workers immediately sealed off the building and began neutralizing and masking the mercapton odor with a special “Eco-sorb” compound. Fearing a natural gas leak, the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Police Station and neighboring DaimlerChrysler plant were evacuated.

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